

IN THE CLAIMS:

A marked-up version of the claims showing the amendments is attached hereto as Appendix A. Matter that has been deleted is indicated by brackets.

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the HECT E3 ubiquitin ligase WW domain comprises the sequence

GPLPXGWE~~X~~₃tttG~~X~~YYhXHNT~~t~~TTtWXtPt (SEQ ID NO:2)

wherein each t is an independently selected polar amino acid residue, h is a hydrophobic residue and each X is an independently selected amino acid residue.

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55 Please add new claims 54 and 55 as follows:

55 54 (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein each t is selected from the amino acid residue group consisting of S, H, P, D, E, T and Y.

56 55 (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein each h is selected from the hydrophobic residue group consisting of I, V, L and M.

Please cancel claims 11-53 without prejudice.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Andres for the courtesies extended during today's telephonic interview with Applicants' representative Leon F. Hebert. During today's interview, Applicants' Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on January 28, 2002 in connection with the instant application was discussed. Specifically, the Examiner suggested that Applicants (1) delete the language of claim 2 that is directed to two lists of residues and (2) delete the non-elected claims.

The amendments and remarks contained herein reflect the content of the above-discussed interview. In particular, Applicants amend claim 2 to remove the polar amino acid and hydrophobic residue groups (those included in the parentheses) and add claims 54 and 55 to better claim the grouped residues. Support for the amendment of claim 2 and new claims 54 and 55 can be found, for example, at the second full paragraph of page 13. Applicants also cancel claims 11-53 as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Applicants expressly